

Mumbai's finest

World Heritage Sites. She also helped raise the funds for a museum on Elephanta Island and drafted the redevelopment plans for the Gateway of India. But it's the Rs two-crore renovation of the Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Byculla that really proved her mettle.



Actor

Smita Patil

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Arjun Appadurai Anthropologist

He has a PhD from the University of Chicago but Arjun Appadurai is first an alumnus of St Xavier's High School and Elphinstone College. Appadurai's analyses of contemporary politics and changing social systems have made heads spin around the world and earned him positions at places like the MacArthur Foundation, UNESCO and the World Bank. He is currently the provost at the prestigious New School in New York University. Appadurai is also one of the co-founders of PUKAR and *Public Culture*, a culture studies journal.

Smita Patil Actor

For *Manthan* and *Mirch Masala*. For *Blumika* and *Aakrosh*. We're even willing to forgive *Namak Halal* and *Aakhir Kyon?* just because we miss Smita Patil so much. The woman who is the ISI mark of acting in India – any female actor who even so much as hints at a serious side is instantly compared to Patil – died in 1986 at the age of 31. Her naturalism and intensity made her the poster girl of arthouse movies, and she was proof that Indian cinema could produce bona

BG Horniman Journalist and freedom fighter

Benjamin Guy Horniman, the editor of *The Bombay Chronicle*, demonstrated that the power of the press wasn't just a cliché. He was among the most vociferous supporters of independence in the early years. His criticism of colonial rule in print and public meetings was so pointed, he was deported in 1919. But in 1926, he defied the restrictions imposed and returned. Horniman also championed the rights of Mumbai's workers, demanding better conditions in the factories and highlighting the dreariness of the housing facilities.



Reformist

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BR Ambedkar



Anthropologist

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Arjun Appadurai

PK Das Architect

In a city that's in love with the idea of privatisation, architect PK Das has conjured up two picturesque promenades that are welcomingly public. His enormously popular seaside walkways along Bandra's Carter Road and BJ Road give these increasingly congested



Heritage activist

Tasneem Mehta

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Anand Patwardhan Documentary filmmaker

Anand Patwardhan hasn't made a full-length documentary since *War and Peace* in 2002, but when he does, we can be sure it will be in the headlines. Educated in the US and Canada, Patwardhan, 58, has been butting heads with the establishment since he made *Kranti ki Tarangan* in 1974. Since then, through documentaries such as *Prisoners of Conscience*, *In the Name of God and Father*, *Son and Holy War*, Patwardhan has married politics with filmmaking and raised consciousness about issues like communalism, globalisation and human rights.



MUNIPALLE

What was the documentary scene like when you started working in Mumbai? What has changed since? I came back to Bombay from Canada in 1982 and took photographs of slum demolitions for the People's Union for Civil Liberties. What emerged was *Bombay Our City*. There were very few

carried our projector and showed *Bombay Our City* in hundreds of slums.

Many more documentaries are being made thanks to the digital revolution, and screenings for the middle class have increased. There is greater awareness of the documentary form, and we're making headway in terms of getting younger audiences. But there is less of an effort to take films to working-class areas. Even when we do, because of saturation satellite television, we don't get the audiences we used to.

What has changed in Mumbai over the past few years?

My love for Bombay is mainly nostalgic. Bombay has changed for the worse after the demolition of the Babri mosque in 1992. I miss the old Bombay. It was a special place, a genuine melting pot.

Today opportunistic politicians have made sections of Marathi-speaking people extremely narrow-minded. Right-wing Hindutva hadn't taken root in those days. Bombay saw communal riots in places like Bhiwandi, but nothing on the scale of what happened a decade later. We still spoke about working-class issues. Trade unions hadn't been fully crushed. Today you can't



crier, sharing the city's stories with the world in the pun-filled swirl of Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Marathi and English that he's labelled HUG-

ME. Mumbai is among the central characters of *The Moor's Last Sigh* and *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*. Rushdie has won so many prizes (a knighthood in 2007, the Booker of Bookers in 1993 and the Best of the Booker earlier this year), his showcase is more packed than a Mumbai train at rush hour. Even though he moved away more than four decades ago, Rushdie has remembered the city's madness, just as it used to be in his childhood, and is among Mumbai's most revered sons.

house, Windsor Villa on Warden Road in Breach Candy, while I was being educated in England, I would quite simply have returned there after college and lived there for the rest of my life. In fact I'd be there right now.

What makes Mumbai different from London and New York, those other great cities that you've also called home?

The place where you were a child always has a unique feeling. But I also like Bombay because it is the place where all Indias collide, where Indians from every corner of the country come to make new lives. Great cities do have many similarities (and Bombay and New York even share Catherine of Braganza, in whose dowry the islands came to Britain, and who is also the queen after whom

on your last visit?

Very badly. But at least I wasn't driving the car.

Do you have a favourite Bombay snack? Bhel-puri. Obviously.

If you had to nominate a Bombay hero, past or present, who would that be?

I would probably nominate the great writer Saadat Hasan Manto, even though he eventually left Bombay for Pakistan. His stories of the city's low-life are very high on my list of classic Indian literature, and his famous Partition story, "Toba Tek Singh" about the 1947 partition of a lunatic asylum on the Indo-Pakistani border, is, in my view, still the best literary response to that dreadful time. Naresh Fernandes



Architect

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PK Das



Lawyer

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Flavia Agnes



Theatre activist

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Sanjina Kapoor

was the city's first gallery. Over the years, Pundole would promote many then-unknown but now-famous artists like MF Husain, KH Ara and Akbar Padamsee. Pundole passed away in 1990.

Sangita Jindal Art patron

She is on her way to becoming the city's modern-day Lorenzo de Medici with all the cultural projects she supports. By diverting some of steel magnate OP Jindal's millions towards culture and the arts, Sangita Jindal has provided financial support to many organisations that may well have collapsed without her aid. Among the city cultural initiatives she has supported are the magazine *Art India* and Writer's Bloc, a series of workshops that aims to develop new plays. She is also involved in revamping the Sir JJ School of Art. Aside from heading up the Jindal South West Foundation and the Jindal Arts Creative Interaction Centre, she is also the chairperson of the Hampi Foundation.

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GB Mhatre Art deco architect

Every time you take a walk past the Oval, you're standing in GB Mhatre's shadow. Though he doesn't receive official credit for

neighbourhoods some much-needed breathing space. The promenades, sustained by citizens' groups, embody the very spirit of the city: they're open to all, but please commit no nuisance.

Flavia Agnes Lawyer

Flavia Agnes doesn't have a Wikipedia entry but her name makes many women cheer and probably makes many men feel weak (and not in the knees). One of the founders of Majlis, an organisation that works for women's rights, and a highly respected legal scholar, Agnes became a student of law after enduring 13

years of an abusive marriage and surviving a messy divorce. The feisty lawyer has earned respect for her research into gender inequalities in law and her work with underprivileged Muslim women.

Kali Pundole Gallerist

When Kali Pundole decided to convert a part of the watch shop he had inherited into a gallery, there must have been some hand-wringing in the family. It was not a sound business idea in 1963 but it was modern Indian art's finest hour. The Progressives were in full form, and Pundole Art Gallery